

Checklist 6 – Items to be included in an impact assessment report for renewable energy projects related to World Heritage

Chapter/Item	Content
Executive Summary	<p>A clearly written summary of the key findings, recommendations and conclusions. The summary should include: the identification of the World Heritage property; a description of its Outstanding Universal Value, attributes and other values; and a description of the impacts of the proposed renewable energy project thereon.</p> <p>This summary, if possible, should be written in language easily understood by any reader. However, since the technical elements are an important part of the report and must be included in the Executive Summary, it might not always be feasible to use plain language. If this is the case, it is advisable that a non-technical summary be added in order to facilitate comprehension for readers without a technical background in World Heritage.</p>
Contractual information and acknowledgements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – For the purposes of transparency, it is helpful to provide information on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ contractual references (who funded and commissioned the report) ○ the role played by any institution or agency responsible for overseeing or reviewing the process ○ who formed the team that carried out the impact assessment (key authors and other contributing specialists) ○ the authors' statement declaring no conflict of interest ○ other key players in the process (an appendix on the consultation process can provide a list of independent reviewers and all those who participated in one way or another)
Methodology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – a summary of the methodology used for the impact assessment – the overall time frame of the impact assessment and dates indicating when the different stages of the impact assessment were carried out – description of how rights holders and stakeholders were involved and how their views were taken into account (when feasible, an annex could include a full list of all those who participated in various ways) – any missing information, uncertainties or knowledge gaps relating to the baseline data, the proposed renewable energy project and/or the impact identification and prediction – an explanation of specific methodologies used for establishing the baseline study on the World Heritage property and for the prediction of impacts may be included in an annex
Baseline for the World Heritage property	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Statement of Outstanding Universal Value – description of the World Heritage property and its wider setting, including the tangible and intangible attributes of the Outstanding Universal Value, its authenticity (in the case of cultural properties), integrity and other values – information on the current state of conservation of the attributes conveying the Outstanding Universal Value of the property that is considered the baseline condition for impact prediction – summary of other national/regional/local heritage values (cultural and natural) which have strong interdependencies with the Outstanding Universal Value and/or may also be affected by the proposal

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – relevant legal, regulatory and policy frameworks, including reference to the implementation of the World Heritage Convention on the national level – analysis of the governance and management system of the World Heritage property – relevant maps, plans and illustrations incorporated into annexes
Outline of the proposed renewable energy project and alternatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – an explanation concerning the need for the development and objectives of the proposed renewable energy project – an outline of the proposed renewable energy project – an outline of the life cycle of the proposed renewable energy project: construction, operation, maintenance and end-of-life strategies (detailed information might be included in an annex) – maps, plans, technical drawings, visualizations and other illustrations in relation to the World Heritage property: these must be sufficient for a clear understanding of potential impacts – alternatives that were considered, including the “no project” option
Identification and evaluation of impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – identification of the positive and negative impacts that the proposed renewable energy project would have on the World Heritage property, including consideration of cumulative impacts – moreover, prediction of the characteristics of the positive and negative impacts, including disclosure of any uncertainty – evaluation of the significance of the impact of the proposed project on the Outstanding Universal Value and attributes of the World Heritage property – determination of whether these impacts are acceptable or not
Mitigation measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – options for mitigation, including a proposal for detailed measures, and responsibilities (timeline, funding sources, and so on) – description of any residual impacts after mitigation and a new appraisal of acceptability and degree of impacts
Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – recommendation for proceeding with the proposed renewable energy installation project or with a preferred alternative, or not proceeding in the light of impacts
Follow-up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – description of roles and responsibilities for the implementation of mitigation actions and their monitoring, should the proposed project be approved and implemented – if specific recommendations are needed and provided in relation to the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value of a World Heritage property and its attributes in the project implementation phases, these recommendations will need to be covered by adequate monitoring tools (this might include reporting to the World Heritage Committee in the form of a state of conservation report) – the preparation of a proposed environmental management plan for the renewable energy installation
Annexes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Terms of reference – detailed information collected to describe the baseline of the World Heritage property (e.g., inventory of attributes that convey the Outstanding Universal Value, information on other relevant national/regional/local heritage values, related surveys and scientific studies, relevant information gathered through the consultation process, illustrations and photographs, and so on)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – supporting technical information regarding the prediction of impacts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ project description and parameters ○ detailed description of the project life cycle, including end-of-life strategies ○ technical drawings of the proposed renewable energy project ○ technical drawings of the renewable energy installation ○ visualizations of the proposed project ○ relevant location maps and design plans for the project ○ technical assessments (noise, pollution, flickering, glare) – the plan for mitigation and monitoring – a proposed environmental management plan for the renewable energy installation if already available
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Source: Adapted from the outline presented in the *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context*